

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM**

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name E. M. Fulton House

other names/site number Glady Williams House; Vernoy Tate House; VDHR 329-0004-0001

2. Location

street & number 103 West Main St. not for publication N/A

city or town Wise vicinity _____

state Virginia code VA county Wise code 195 Zip 24293

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination _____ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets _____ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant _____ nationally _____ statewide X locally. (____ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official _____ Date _____

Virginia Department of Historic Resources

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property _____ meets _____ does not meet the National Register criteria. (____ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official _____ Date _____

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

_____ entered in the National Register

_____ See continuation sheet.

_____ determined eligible for the

National Register

_____ See continuation sheet.

_____ determined not eligible for the National Register

_____ removed from the National Register

_____ other (explain): _____

Signature of Keeper _____

Date of Action _____

U. S. Department of the Interior
National Park Service

E. M. Fulton House
Town of Wise, Wise County, Virginia

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

- ☒ private
☐ public-local
☐ public-State
☐ public-Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)

- ☒ building(s)
☐ district
☐ site
☐ structure
☐ object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u> 1 </u>	<u> 0 </u> buildings
<u> 0 </u>	<u> 0 </u> sites
<u> 1 </u>	<u> 0 </u> structures
<u> 0 </u>	<u> 0 </u> objects
<u> 2 </u>	<u> 0 </u> Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0 Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.) N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat:

<u> Domestic </u>	Sub: <u> single dwelling </u>
<u> Landscape </u>	<u> retaining wall </u>

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: <u> Domestic </u>	Sub: <u> single dwelling </u>
<u> Landscape </u>	<u> retaining wall </u>

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions) Queen Anne / Colonial Revival **Materials** (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation stone
roof asphalt
walls brick
other

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

U. S. Department of the Interior
National Park Service

E. M. Fulton House
Town of Wise, Wise County, Virginia

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- ☐ A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☒ C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- ☐ A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ B removed from its original location.
- ☐ C a birthplace or a grave.
- ☐ D a cemetery.
- ☐ E a reconstructed building, object or structure.
- ☐ F a commemorative property.
- ☐ G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions) _____ Architecture _____

Period of Significance ___ 1905-1956 _____

Significant Dates ___ 1905 _____

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above) _____ n/a _____

Cultural Affiliation _____ n/a _____

Architect/Builder _____ unknown _____

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS)

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- ☐ previously listed in the National Register
- ☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

(Rev. 10-90)

U. S. Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceE. M. Fulton House
Town of Wise, Wise County, Virginia**Primary Location of Additional Data**

☒ State Historic Preservation Office
☐ Other State agency
☐ Federal agency
☐ Local government
☐ University
☐ Other

Name of repository: VA Department of Historic Resources**10. Geographical Data**Acreage of Property less than one acre**UTM References** (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
1	17	359324	4093611	2			
<u>See continuation sheet.</u>							

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)**Boundary Justification** (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title: Lona Roberts, owner; and Michael J. Pulice, Architectural Historian, VDHR
Organization: Virginia Department of Historic Resources, Roanoke Regional Office date October, 2005
street & number: 1030 Penmar Ave. SE telephone 540-857-7586
city or town Roanoke state VA zip code 24013

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Joseph H. and Lona Roberts
street & number P.O. Box 513 telephone 276-328-3158
city or town Wise state VA zip code 24293-0513

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places

E. M. Fulton House
Town of Wise, Wise County, Virginia

Continuation Sheet

Section 7 Page 1

Summary Description

The E. M. Fulton House is located in the center of the county courthouse town of Wise, a small town in the Appalachian coal country of far southwestern Virginia. The house occupies a large corner lot on the north side of the first block of West Main Street, at the intersection of Birchfield Road, the main northbound artery from town. The house is two-and-a-half stories tall and six bays wide, constructed of frame with a red brick veneer on a thick stone foundation. The scale and complex massing of the house is Queen Anne inspired, but with an overall measure of symmetry characteristic of the Colonial Revival. The Colonial Revival style dominates the exterior details, such as its stone-like quoins, heavy window lintels and sills, and Doric porch columns. The asymmetrical, open interior plan, with large rooms and pocket doors, as well as the dark, robust woodwork found throughout the house are hallmarks of Victorian-era homes, as are the three stained glass windows in the house. The lot is delineated by a historic stone retaining wall that is identified in this nomination as a contributing structure.

Narrative Description

The Fulton House is two-and-a-half stories tall and six bays wide, constructed of frame with a red brick veneer on a thick stone foundation. The house faces south toward Main Street and is set back only a short distance from the road. Two of the six bays on the front elevation project from the mass to form a side wall of the front porch, which extends across three more bays. The scale and style of the house is Queen Anne inspired, with complex massing and Colonial Revival exterior details, such as its stone-like quoins, heavy window lintels and sills, and Doric porch columns.

The foundation consists of solid eighteen-inch-thick walls of coursed, cut blocks of sandstone from Wise County. It forms a full basement under the entire house. These massive stone walls have allowed the house to survive constant vibrations from heavy traffic, including coal trucks, along two sides, with no structural consequences.

The house is trimmed at each of the seven corners of the first and second floors with large white-painted, rock-faced concrete quoins. There is a projecting nine inch wide beveled concrete water table painted white between the basement / foundation and the first floor of the house. There are seven pedimented gables of red brick. All of these gables and the circumference of the main roof are trimmed with wide, heavy sheet metal dentil blocks, painted white around 1980. The first and second floors of the house have 47 primary double-hung wood sash windows with two ropes and

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places

E. M. Fulton House
Town of Wise, Wise County, Virginia

Continuation Sheet

Section 7, Page 2

weights on each window. On the first floor, all of the windows have the original oak sashes, sills and panes. On the second floor, all of the windows have the original pine sashes, sills and frames. Several panes of glass and ropes have been replaced over the years. All windows are operable. The exterior of these primary windows have smooth concrete sills and lintels painted white. The lintels are etched to resemble jack arches. There are 3 fixed stained glass windows on the first floor, one of which fills the transom over the front door.

In addition to the seven gables, there are three attic dormers, all of brick and wood with hipped roofs topped with sheet metal finials and small two-over-two windows. The largest dormer, which has three such windows, is on the front elevation. At the attic level is a small hexagonal shaped window with a single pane of glass, and five diamond shaped windows with four-light wood sashes. The basement has nine fixed-sash, clear glass, single pane windows and exterior concrete sills painted white.

The front (south) side of the house has a one-story three-bay porch with paired Doric columns. Sometime in the 1970s, the original wood floor of the front porch was replaced with red ceramic tile. This porch has a hip roof with asphalt shingles. The front of the porch roof is supported by posts with four sets of paired Doric wood columns on paneled concrete pedestals. An early picture of the house shows round wooden balusters in the porch and step railings. At some time in the past, these were replaced with wrought iron railings painted black.

In 1992 the hip roof of the main part of the house was covered with architectural asphalt shingles, which replaced the original slate shingle roof. The main roof of the house has a flat deck roof at its center, covered with painted sheet metal. It is accessed through a hatch from the attic. The gutters on the house are built into the roof, are recessed about fifteen inches from the edge of the roof and are hidden from below.

There are three chimneys in the house that extend above the roof to the outside. One chimney, made of solid red brick, extends from the basement to its crown on the exterior. It has two openings to the flue for stovepipes. The two other chimneys are built on the interior. Their sandstone bases can be seen in the basement.

The north side of the house has a screened L-shaped porch with tapered wood box columns. The hip roof has asphalt shingles. The floor is red ceramic tile. This porch was not part of the original house—its foundation is of cinder block and there are basement windows that are now covered by this porch. The east side of the house has a hip-roofed porch, later enclosed as a small interior room. This involved covering over two outside windows with white aluminum siding.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places

E. M. Fulton House
Town of Wise, Wise County, Virginia

Continuation Sheet

Section 7, Page 3

House Interior

The house has twelve rooms, a large foyer, two hallways, and three bathrooms on the first and second floors, and the open unfinished attic on the third floor. Unique interior features of the first and second floors of the house include the following: all of the woodwork: windows, trim, doors, frames, floors, wainscoting and chair rails are the original oak downstairs and pine upstairs. All woodwork has natural finish except in bathrooms that were painted by previous owners. Ceilings are eleven feet tall, interior walls are nine and a half inches thick. Crown molding of dentils or egg and dart motif is found in all rooms and hallways. All walls retain original plaster.

In 2003, several original light fixtures were rewired and, along with new vintage looking ceiling light / fan fixtures, were installed in all of the rooms and hallways. Originally there were no ceiling fixtures in the upstairs rooms. Six original plumbing fixtures remain in the house: an adult claw foot bathtub, a child's claw foot bathtub, a corner sink and three laundry tubs / sinks in the original laundry room in the basement. At some point the original kitchen was moved from the north side to the east side of the house and white metal cabinets were installed. In the 2003 the kitchen was remodeled with wood cabinets replacing the white metal ones. The house has cast iron, hot water radiators that were probably installed in the 1930s. These continue to serve the entire house. In 2004, an electric furnace was installed to warm the radiator water and replace the former oil furnace, which replaced a coal furnace in the 1970s or 1980s.

The wainscoting and chair rails that encircle the foyer and extend up the wall along the stairway are made of oak. Those around the second floor hallway are made of pine. All are restored like their original finish. The oak posts on the stairway and the some of the oak mantels display hand carved oak appliques. On the first floor there are two pairs of operable oak pocket doors, nine feet tall. All other interior and exterior doors have operable transom windows. There are three original fixed-sash stained glass windows. One is a transom over the front door, one is in the foyer; the other is in the dining room.

There are eight coal-burning fireplaces, each surrounded with a different color of glazed ceramic tile that extends onto the hearths. Each has a unique oak mantel and different shaped mirrored over-mantels, as well as one of the following features: glass display case (2 mantels), Doric columns (1 mantel) Corinthian columns (2 mantels), claw feet (1 mantel), working pendulum clock (1 mantel), or plain shelf (1 mantel). Each fireplace has a cast iron and masonry firebox. Solid red around the flue liners are visible in the attic and extend through the roof to the chimney

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

National Register of Historic Places

**E. M. Fulton House
Town of Wise, Wise County, Virginia**

Continuation Sheet

Section 7 Page 4

crown with corbeled caps. Each of these two chimneys serves four coal burning fireplaces. In the back of each hearth is an ashpit dump that extends to the basement.

Originally, there were no closets in the house. The second owners of the house had built corner closets in five of the rooms. All except one of these were removed in 2003 and four armoires instead of closets are now used where needed. The house has a secondary stairway serving the first and second floors. It is of oak but is not ornate like the main stair. This stairway formerly extended into the basement laundry area. Some time in the past, this opening between the basement and first floor was closed and covered with a floor.

All of the four exterior doors are original and have a single pane of beveled glass in the top half and a bottom half with a single horizontal and two vertical recessed wood panels topped with a dentil molding. The doors are solid oak on the interior and pine on the exterior. Two have been restored to their original state. Two others are still painted on the exterior.

Site Features

The property has three approximately seventy-five year old spruce trees on it. The entire lot is surrounded on three sides by a five to seven-foot tall, twelve to fifteen-inch thick, coursed, cut native sandstone retaining wall with crenelations of large pointed rocks. There is a metal gate at the center of the wall on Main Street. This type of wall is unique to both the Town and the County of Wise.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

National Register of Historic Places

**E. M. Fulton House
Town of Wise, Wise County, Virginia**

Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 5

8. Statement of Significance

Constructed in 1905 and 1906 by E. M. Fulton, the eighth Commonwealth Attorney of Wise County and community leader, the Fulton House today is a prominent historic landmark at the center of the Town of Wise, and is among the oldest and finest residences in the rural Appalachian coalmining region of far southwest Virginia. In its design, the house exhibits the height of fashionable embellishments of its time, with complex massing featuring projecting bays, seven gables, and deck roof; early Colonial Revival features including dentil cornice, quoining, and Doric-columned front porch; elaborate late-Victorian interior woodwork and stained-glass windows. In its construction, the house is exceedingly sturdy from its eighteen-inch stone basement walls to its hip-and-valley roof. It has survived a century remarkably intact, in spite of its immediate proximity to one of the busiest intersections in the region. The fine stone retaining wall surrounding the lot, and the metal gate and stone steps leading to the house's front entrance, mark the house as one that was built to impress the many passers by in the bustling courthouse town.¹

Justification of Criteria

The Fulton House, a prominent landmark at the center of the Town of Wise, is eligible under Criterion C in the area of Architecture because of its excellence of design and construction, which is underscored by rarity of such elaborate early-twentieth-century homes in Wise County and surrounding areas. Its period of significance begins with Fulton's purchase of the property and commencement of the house construction in 1905, and ends with the fifty-year cut off in 1956.

Historical Background

Between 1853 and 1856, Daniel Ramey purchased a 700 tract in an area called the Big Glades. In 1856, The Legislature of Virginia formed Wise County from parts of Russell, Scott and Lee Counties. The new county was named for Henry A. Wise, then Governor of Virginia. Big Glades became the county seat, then known as Gladeville. Ramey donated 2 acres of his land to be used as Courthouse Square. In 1893 the name of the town of Gladeville was changed to Wise, the same as the county name.²

Elbert Martin Fulton, the son of Wilburn and Jane Phipps Fulton, was born July 1, 1858 near the community of Pound in Wise County, Virginia. At 18 years of age he went to nearby Gladeville, now known as Wise, Virginia, and studied law under Judge William H. Burns. In December 1876 he received his license to practice law. In March, 1877, he married Sophronia E.

Section 8 Page 6

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places

E. M. Fulton House
Town of Wise, Wise County, Virginia

Continuation Sheet

Dotson, and soon thereafter went into partnership with Judge Burns, his law instructor. The partnership ended upon the death of Judge Burns in 1884. Fulton served from June, 1883 until June, 1887 as Wise County's eighth Commonwealth Attorney. From 1901-1910 he had a law partnership with Rufus A. Ayers, a former Attorney General of Virginia and builder of the Rufus A. Ayers House, which now houses the Southwest Virginia Museum Historical State Park in Big Stone Gap, Virginia. He began serving as counsel for the Norfolk and Western Railway Company during its early extension into Wise County and continued to represent the company in all court litigations until his death. In the late 1880s and in 1905, Mr. Fulton purchased various tracts of land on which he had the Fulton House built.³

Fulton was established in the practice of law during the early development of Wise County, was known as one of the outstanding lawyers of the state, and gave legal advice in the settlement of land titles. He had a large practice in the United States District Court for the Western District of the State and was leading counsel in United States Supreme Court Cases. In his latter years he acted as an advisory attorney. He was known as "Judge" Fulton, but the title was only honorary. He served many years as the President of the Wise County Bar Association. In *Wise County History*, Charles A. Johnson stated that "Judge Fulton's life as a man can be written in a sentence of nine syllables. He was a good, honest, just and righteous man."⁴

A year after E. M. Fulton's death, the house was purchased from Mrs. Fulton by Vernoy Tate. Tate himself was a prominent local citizen who served as the eighteenth Commonwealth Attorney of Wise County and as a member of the Virginia House of Delegates.

Fulton's youngest daughter, Helen Gould Fulton, was the mother of Joseph Harvey Roberts, the current owner of the Fulton House. Joe H. Roberts is an attorney and an accountant. He resides at the house with his wife Lona Wharton Roberts.

Notes

1. Wise County deed book 74, pages 271-273.
2. Charles Andrew Johnson, A Narrative History of Wise County, Virginia, 1938.
3. Wise County deed book 104, pages 313-315.
4. Johnson, A Narrative History of Wise County.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places

E. M. Fulton House
Town of Wise, Wise County, Virginia

Continuation Sheet

9. Bibliography

Addington, Luther F. *The Story of Wise County*. Centennial Committee and School Board of Wise County, Virginia, 1956.

Johnson, Charles Andrew. *A Narrative History of Wise County, Virginia*. 1938.

The Heritage of Wise County and the City of Norton, Wise County Historical Society, 1993.

Wise County deed book 74, pages 271-273.

Wise County deed book 104, pages 313-315.

10. Geographic Data

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary of the nominated parcel conforms exactly to that identified as Parcel 014292 on Town of Wise real estate tax maps, and in the Wise County GIS system. The lot is bounded on the north by Church St. NE; on the south by W. Main St.; on the west by Johnston Ave. NW; and on the east by Burchfield Rd.

Boundary Justification

The nominated parcel boundary is exactly that of the original residential lot laid out by the Town of Wise prior to 1905.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

National Register of Historic Places

**E. M. Fulton House
Town of Wise, Wise County, Virginia**

Continuation Sheet

All photographs are archivally-printed black & white digital.

E. M. Fulton House (DHR #095-0051)
Wise, Virginia
Date: September, 2005
Photographer: Michael J. Pulice

1. South (front) elevation.
2. Rear (north) and west elevations.
3. East elevation.
4. Interior, 1st floor, main staircase.
5. Interior, 2nd floor, main staircase.
6. Interior, 1st floor, pocket doors.
7. Interior, 1st floor, dining room.
8. Interior, 1st floor, foyer mantel.
9. Interior, 1st floor, parlor mantel.
10. Interior, 2nd floor, bedroom mantel.